

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A storage controller that provides controlled access to storage devices by host computers is disclosed. The storage controller includes a host interface adapter that interfaces the storage controller to the hosts, a device interface adapter that interfaces the storage controller to the storage devices, and a microprocessor that processes requests by the hosts to access the storage devices. An access control table is created in response to user input in a memory accessible by the host interface adapter. When the host interface adapter receives a request, it determines from the access control table whether the requesting host has permission to access the specified storage device. If so, the host interface adapter forwards the request to the microprocessor. Otherwise, the host interface adapter transmits a response to the host denying access in one embodiment, or in another embodiment, provides an indication to the microprocessor that access should be denied.